

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

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CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 9654

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, TH
SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF OPIUM CARAVAN IN NORTH THAILAND

1. AS A RESULT OF INTELLIGENCE PASSED BY US TO THE THAI POLICE, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON CIF INVOLVEMENT (SEE BANGKOK 9523 SECRET/ EXDIS) POLICE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL PRACHUAB MOUNTED AN OPERATION WHICH CULMINATED IN THE SEIZURE JUNE 20 OF AN OPIUM CARAVAN FIVE MILES INTO THAILAND FROM THE BURMA BORDER NEAR BAN KAE NOI, CHIANG MAI PROVINCE. THE INTERDICTION OPERATION WAS CARRIED OUT PRINCIPALLY BY POLICE AERIAL REINFORCEMENT UNITS (PARU), SPECIALLY TRAINED ELEMENTS OF THE BORDER PATROL POLICE.

2. SEIZED WERE 193 KILOGRAMS OF RAW OPIUM, SEVERAL WEAPONS, TWENTY- FOUR SUSPECTS (TWO OF WHOM ARE WOMEN) AND TWENTY- FOUR PACK HORSES. FORTY- EIGHT OTHER HORSES ESCAPED DUE TO LACK OF MANPOWER AS PART OF PARU FORCE WAS ENGAGED IN SEARCHING ANOTHER CARAVAN WHICH PROVED TO BE FREE OF NARCOTICS.

3. FURTHER DETAILS WILL FOLLOW WHEN AVAILABLE.

4. COMMENT: MISSION HIGHLY PLEASED BY THIS FIRST
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OPERATION AGAINST OPIUM CARAVAN IN NORTH THAILAND, WHICH PROVED SUCCESSFUL DUE TO CAREFUL PLANNING AND COMPETENT EXECUTION AS WELL AS DUE TO COURAGE AND DETERMINATION OF THOSE INVOLVED. NOW THAT THAI POLICE HAVE GOTTEN THEIR FEET WET IN TACKLING A CARAVAN, WE LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER OPERATIONS ALONG THESE LINES, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PASS TO THAI POLICE INTELLIGENCE THAT IS SIMILARLY ACTIONABLE.

MASTERS

NOTE BY OC/ T: BANGKOK 9654. DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/ S- O-
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